The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Pretension is nothing; power is everything.—Whipple.

WHOLE NO. 1060. WILLIAM GREEN, President. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1931 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 21, NO. 21.

BUSINESS AND THE FIVE-DAY WEEK

In an article entitled "Business Looks at Unemployment" in the August issue of the Atlantic Monthly, Julius H. Barnes, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, presents certain views relative to unemployment and remedies for it. If these views represent the conclusions of business leaders, the 6,000,000 out-of-works have a dreary present and future confronting them.

Mr. Barnes says that unemployment caused by labor-displacing machinery and devices happens not "because there is less work to be done, but because the worker is not in the right place."

When the industrial engineers install machinery for the purpose of enabling the manufacturer of boilers to have the same number of boilers produced by a less number of workers, Mr. Barnes declares the reason the dismissed boilermakers are jobless is because "boilermakers cannot be converted into automobile makers or textile weavers overnight." This reasoning is fallacious.

There are around 46,000,000 persons in the United States who come under the census classification of the "gainfully employed." Working under the standard six-day week with modern labor-displacing machinery and devices the laboring people have increased their output so that around 40,000,000 workers are today producing all the commodities and services our entire population of over 100,000,000 are able to buy.

The employers therefore refuse to purchase the labor power of the 6,000,000 surplus workers and toss them into the street to live as best they can.

In view of the well-known fact that the automobile industry, the textile industry and every other industry now have tens of thousands more workers than the employers in those industries will hire, it is fine consolation for the displaced boilermakers to be told that if they would convert themselves into automobile makers or textile workers there would be jobs galore for them.

Mr. Barnes implies that there is plenty of work to be done, and that the reason the unemployed workers are out of jobs is because they are not where the work is. This is erroneous.

There are 6,000,000 unemployed today because the manufacturers who own and operate our business establishments can get 40,000,000 workers on the standard six-day week to produce all the goods that can be sold at usual prices. Therefore they refuse to employ the 6,000,000 excess workers known as the unemployed.

In considering remedies for unemployment, Mr. Barnes relies on the larger application of spreading employment over the entire year which some business men under exceptional circumstances have adopted with a fair degree of success, a plan which is necessarily limited in its application even under favorable conditions. He ignores the shorter work week.

With the output of labor continually increasing, it is apparent that the only adequate remedy for our present unemployment is to reduce the length of the working week to the point where every one of the 6,000,000 jobless will be put to work.

It is likewise apparent that the only way to prevent unemployment in the future is to reduce the length of the working week proportionately to the reduction in the labor time necessary under new machinery and methods to produce the goods we require.

Reduction of the working week is Labor's remedy for the unemployment problem.

Labor demands work for the jobless.

Labor believes that the five-day week would put most of the unemployed to work. If it does not, then the length of the working week should be further reduced.

It is time for business to stop "looking" at unemployment and use its power to settle the problem in the only way it can be settled—the five-day week.

Business holds the keys to our industrial and commercial establishments and refuses to permit 6,000,000 unemployed workers to enter.

Business should open the doors and put the unemployed to work.

The five-day week will do it.

Freedom of Expression and Association

The very life and perpetuity of free and democratic institutions are dependent upon freedom of speech, of the press and of assemblage and association. We insist that all restrictions of freedom of speech, press, public assembly, association and travel be completely removed, individuals and groups being responsible for their utterances. These fundamental rights must be set out with clearness and must not be denied or abridged in any manner.

—Excerpt from A. F. of L. Reconstruction Program.

HOOVER TO COORDINATE ALL JOBLESS RELIEF

Washington, Aug. 1.—President Hoover, thoroughly impressed with the significance of a constantly increasing number of the jobless, has begun a thorough study of the unemployment situation with a view to bringing about co-operation of all Federal, State and private agencies dealing with unemployment and unemployment relief. It is stated the President is taking this action because of the impending hard winter for the unemployed.

He summoned John Barton Payne, chairman of the American Red Cross, and F. C. Croxton, acting chairman of the President's Emergency Committee for Employment, to the White House for reports on unemployment and unemployment relief.

Payne declares that under its charter the Red Cross cannot take up unemployment relief. Croxton's committee is endeavoring to co-ordinate unemployment relief agencies and persuade employers to share available work among all their employes rather than work a certain number full time and dismiss the rest.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY WILL NOT CUT WAGES

Washington, Aug. 1.—Officials of the Southern Railway announce that they are not contemplating any movement for the reduction of wage scales covered by contracts with organized labor. It is explained that the press reports concerning an alleged general wage cut originated in a recent voluntary reduction of salaries of officers.

400 STRIKES AGAINST WAGE CUTS REPORTED

Washington, Aug. 1.—The U. S. Labor Department's Division of Conciliation is seeking to adjust 86 labor disputes in 18 States, involving 67,387 workers, of whom 56,425 are affected directly.

Within a few months over 400 strikes and controversies have been reported to the Department and practically all of them against wage reductions.

During the entire year 1930 the department listed 653 disputes involving 158,114 workers, while during the first six months of 1931 there have been 447 disputes affecting 132,273 workers.

LABOR TABLOIDS

Old-age pensions, barbers' license bill, and legislation barring the sale of prison-made products from other States are scheduled for consideration at the annual convention of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, Columbus, Ohio, September 14.

After a 60-day vacation, 350 employes of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad shops at Dubuque, Iowa, have been put back to work on a five-day schedule.

President W. C. Heaton of the Florida State Federation of Labor urges trade unions to secure prompt action by Federal and State governments in facilitating the construction of public works and ordering government supplies to provide work for the unemployed in Florida. County and municipal governments and boards of education should be required to begin at once repairs to public buildings. Jobs should be given exclusively to citizens of Florida.

The $16,000,000 bond issue of St. Paul, Minn., for public works has not furnished the amount of direct employment expected. So much of modern building work is done by machinery that the direct employment of labor is incidental. It is claimed that most of the money goes for machinery and material.

Nashville, Tenn., trade unions own and control the Nashville Labor Temple, estimated to be worth $100,000. It was paid for within four years of its purchase. Each union bought as much stock as its finances permitted, and contributions from individual union members from one day's wages up added enough to liquidate the purchase price.

Some industries of Wilmington, Del., are working on a five-day week plan, others are planning to work six hours a day and six days a week, and still others shut down for a week every six weeks, the Wilmington committee for the stabilization of employment reports.

Out of 900 members of the International Bricklayers and Stone Masons' Union of Toronto, Canada, 700 are unemployed.

County and township authorities and the trade unions of St. Clair County, Illinois, have a controversy over what constitutes the prevailing wage rate for road work. The county board fixed 75 cents an hour for hard road work under the State prevailing wage rate law as a compromise betwen a minimum of 50 cents and a maximum of $1 paid at various places in the county. But the township board of Mascoutah township after directing the attention of contractors to the law arbitrarily fixed 40 and 50 cents as the wage rate in that township. Organized labor claims the county rate should prevail.

The Trades and Labor Council of Chattanooga, Tenn., condemns as "unfair, unjust, unreasonable and unnecessary" the proposal of certain county officials in arbitrarily cutting wages of some county employes and proposing cuts for others, including school teachers. The council declares that such wage slashes, with the accompanying reduced standards of living, are against the public interest.

Our industrial centers are filled with good Negro farm hands, but they can not be induced to go back to the farm because of the surrounding conditions. No schools, no chance to educate the children, hardly an existence, let alone a decent living. This description goes for the poor white as well as the Negro.—Birmingham (Ala.) Labor Advocate.

DOAK FAVORS 6-HOUR DAY AND 5-DAY WEEK

Secretary of Labor Doak has come out flatly in favor of the six-hour day and five-day week.

"Before I became Secretary of Labor I advocated a six-hour day and a five-day week for industry and I am still of that opinion, Secretary Doak said.

"Since we adopted a five-and-a-half-day week in the government departments we have been doing just as well in the Department of Labor. The work is done just as efficiently and it hasn't cost the government one cent additional. I think we would operate just as efficiently with a five-day week."

HOSIERY MILL STRIKERS SEEK SHERIFF ELECTION

Stroudsburg, Pa., Aug. 1.—Mammoth Hosiery Mill strikers have nominated their own candidate, Ezra "Pete" Kunkle, for county sheriff against a strikebreaking county detective. The strike was declared last February after 17 union members had been dismissed. Since then the officials of Monroe county have harassed the strikers with wholesale arrests, victimization for picketing, and court injunctions. Judge Samuel E. Shull, author of the "Don't even breathe" injunction, recently sent Kunkle to jail for 30 days for contempt of court.

HOFFMAN CONVICTION HELD UNWARRANTED

Stroudsburg, Pa., Aug. 1.—The lack of logic, legality and propriety which featured the trial and sentence of Alfred Hoffman, organizer for the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, is set forth in briefs filed by union attorneys in their appeal to the Superior Court.

Hoffman was sentenced to two years in jail and fined $1,525 by Judge Samuel E. Shull of Monroe county after a local jury found him guilty of conspiracy to attack certain strikebreakers at the Mammoth Hosiery Mills. Counsel for Hoffman claim the jury was prejudiced by an inflammatory and untrue newspaper article which appeared in a local paper during the trial, and claims that this alone justifies a new trial.

Trade Union Benefits

Confectionery Workers.—The Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America paid $14,487 in benefits to union members or their relatives during the last month. Sick members received $11,306, members on strike or locked out, $1,386, and relatives of deceased members, $1,450. The life insurance runs from $150 to $350.

Railroad Telegraphers.—The Order of Railroad Telegraphers paid $17,000 in death benefits to 24 beneficiaries during the last month. The benefits run from $300 to $1,000. Since its establishment the union has paid $4,745,777 to the families of deceased members. The mortuary fund now has a credit balance of $858,895.

Plumbers and Steamfitters.—The United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters' Union paid out $11,700 in death benefits to 38 beneficiaries during the last month for which reports have been finalized. The benefits run from $150 to $500.

Street Railway Employes.—During the last two months the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America has paid $156,230 to beneficiaries in death, disability and old-age benefits. Most of the payments were for $800 each.

NON-UNION WORKERS GET LOW WAGES, LONG HOURS

Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 1.—"The Utah Gas and Coke Company, and its subsidiaries in the State of Utah, is paying starvation wages for common labor," declares the Utah Labor News, the official journal of the Utah State Federation of Labor. It is claimed the company "is working its open shop labor ten hours a day and seven days a week, and this at a time when the tendency is to establish a shorter workday and week."

President Hoover Reaffirms Opposition to Wage Cuts

Washington, Aug. 1.—President Hoover has emphatically reiterated his position that employers should not resort to wage cuts. The White House statement follows:

"No member of the administration has expressed the view or holds the view that the policy of the administration in advocating the maintenance of wages should be changed."

Secretary of Labor Doak also declared that the policy of the administration in opposing wage cuts remained "absolutely unchanged."

The White House declaration was called forth by an unwarranted interpretation placed by newspaper correspondents and wage cutters on a chance remark made by Secretary of Commerce Lamont in a letter to Representative Condon of Rhode Island, replying to Condon's charge that Rhode Island textile mill owners were slashing wages in violation of the White House agreement of 1929 not to cut wages during the depression and requesting President Hoover to intervene.

In discussing the situation in his letter to Condon, Secretary Lamont said that because of the unexpected long duration of the depression many corporations had already cut dividends and salaries and "are faced with the prospect of closing down altogether and thus creating more unemployment, or, alternately, seeking temporary wage reductions."

Secretary Lamont declared that where such cases occurred he did not believe it was the duty of the government to interfere and did not think such interference could be effective.

Newspaper correspondents interpreted Lamont's statement to mean that the administration had given up its opposition to wage slashing. President Hoover's terse denial promptly and definitely stopped the propaganda of the wage cutters.

Workmen's Compensation

Workmen's compensation laws should be amended to provide more adequately for those incapacitated by industrial accidents or occupational diseases. To assure that the insurance fund derived from commerce and industry will be paid in full to injured workers, State insurance must supplant, and prohibit the existence of, employers' liability insurance operated for profit.

—Excerpt from A. F. of L. Reconstruction Program.

Kansas Federation of Labor Seeks Pension and Work Accident Laws

The inadequacy of Kansas labor legislation is severely criticized by Secretary-Treasurer Harry W. Burr of the Kansas State Federation of Labor in a letter to organized labor bodies urging their co-operation in remedying this situation.

"There is no way by which various groups of organized labor can possibly hope to secure justice in the way of favorable labor legislation except through the Kansas State Federation of Labor," Secretary Burr points out. "Regardless of the fact that we who live in Kansas have a high regard for our home State, still the fact remains that it is one of the most backward States insofar as favorable labor laws are concerned. Without a question of doubt the next two years will be a period with a possibility of correcting this condition and securing favorable legislation such as has never been possible in the years past."

Secretary Burr states that the strength of the Federation will be mobilized to secure the enactment of an old-age pension law, an unemployment insurance law, and an amendment to the workmen's compensation law to bring it up to the standard in the law governing the employment of railway trainmen, which awards $10,000 to the family of a trainman killed in line of duty.

WAGE CUTS ARE HARMFUL

By R. B. CRAIG

Labor Commissioner, State of Texas

There are two vital factors involved in a solution of the present depression. One of these calls for full-time employment for workers. The other, of equal importance, demands good wages for full-time work.

The problem of overproduction, or, more properly, underconsumption, will continue in an ever-increasing volume with employment curtailment and wage reductions. The wage earner's dollar returns to the business world. It logically follows that the so-called overproduction is due to underconsumption, both resulting from fewer jobs and decreasing wages.

The United States Government estimates show that there are now 6,000,000 idle men in our country. Say that each man was earning a total wage amounting to $1,500 per year; this would afford a purchasing power of $9,000,000,000 per annum, all of which would be returned to business channels.

It is said that our machine age has displaced millions of workers. This is true as a material fact, but should not prevail as an economic truth. Anything tending to limit or destroy the purchasing power of the great mass of consumers reacts proportionately to reduce the output and profit of business and industry. To meet this situation there should be just as many good paying jobs as before with more reasonably prevailing working hours to meet the demands. This is the only sane solution of the movement to stabilize business conditions. It is certainly not economy nor conducive to prosperity to kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

CIRCUSES CHALLENGE ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 1.—The New York State Labor Department has taken legal action to compel Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey's circus to provide compensation insurance for those of its employes engaged in hazardous occupations. The department claims the circus employes come under the workmen's compensation act. The circus management claims its employes are exempt. The courts will settle the point.

FARM WORKERS FAVOR JOBLESS INSURANCE

London, Eng., Aug. 1.—The alleged identity of interest between workers and employers received a strong jolt in the session of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance devoted to the question of bringing farm workers under unemployment insurance benefits.

Joseph Duncan, general secretary of the Scottish Farm Servants' Union, urged that farm workers should be brought in. He said the large surplus of workers in industry and decreasing opportunities for emigration make it difficult for displaced farm workers to shift from farm labor. Moreover, the practice of farmers to discharge experienced older workers and fill their places with inexperienced younger workers, including many girls, was adding materially to the number of unemployed. Consequently jobless farm workers have become a social question.

Alexander Manson, representing the National Farmers' Union of Scotland, opposed extending unemployment insurance to farm workers. In the long run, he said, it would injure the workers, because the employer's contribution to the insurance fund would take that much from his wages fund and thus limit his ability to hire workers. Mr. Duncan countered with the observation that it was absurd to claim the addition of perhaps 24 cents an acre for the farmers' contribution to the insurance fund would decrease the number of workers hired. The commission seemed to agree with Mr. Duncan.

Theodore Perry, First Vice President International Typographical Union, Dead

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 1.—Theodore Perry, first vice president of the International Typographical Union, died here.

Mr. Perry was born at New Albany, Ind., August 28, 1865. He learned the printing trade on the Louisville Courier-Journal. He joined St. Paul, Minn., Typographical Union in 1887. He was elected vice president of the International Typographical Union at the 1894 convention, serving until 1898. He was again elected in 1928, and served in the capacity of vice president until his death.

He served the general labor movement in Nashville, Indianapolis and other cities.

The interment was in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

Trade Union Action to Help Jobless

Typographical Union.—The executive council of the International Typographical Union grants certain local unions the right to refuse to receive traveling cards. The grant is usually reserved for those unions which have established the shorter workday or other methods for relieving unemployment. The grant is made to protect the unions from an influx of unemployed from locals which have not adopted unemployment relief measures.

Pattern Makers' League.—The general executive board of the Pattern Makers' League of North America has decided to continue its policy of not collecting dues from its unemployed members until the business depression is over.

Molders' Union.—The executive board of the International Molders' Union of North America has extended for 13 weeks during the year the out-of-work benefit under which any union member who is unemployed 13 weeks will not be required to pay dues during that period.

Rochester Typographical Union.—By a referendum the members of Rochester, N. Y., Typographical Union have decided to give over seven days work each during the next three months for the relief of the unemployed members of the union.

LABOR DEPT. CONSIDERS SEVENTY LABOR DISPUTES

Washington, Aug. 1.—Forty-nine strikes and 21 other labor controversies are under consideration by the U. S. Department of Labor, according to information made public by Hugh L. Kerwin, director of the Conciliation Service. Nine labor disputes have been adjusted recently.

Economic Planning, Jobless Insurance, Government Ownership, on Agenda of Trades Union Congress

London, Eng., Aug. 1.—Unemployment insurance, operating industry on an economic plan with adequate protection for the workers in their living standards and the consumers against profiteering under the industrial reorganization, nationalization and public control of railroads and other forms of transportation, mines and minerals, and the building industries, and effective trade union representation on the administrative boards of Government services, are among the major questions the British Trades Union Congress, which meets at Bristol the first week in September, will consider, according to the program of the General Council and resolutions already submitted by the affiliated unions.

The General Council will submit two master resolutions, one on unemployment insurance and the other on economic planning.

The General Council will reaffirm the British trade union movement's support of the policy of unemployment insurance as absolutely necessary for the protection of the masses against the inability of the owners of industry to provide a market for the labor power of the workers. The Council will insist that the present contributory scheme be abolished and that the cost of maintaining the unemployed be made a national charge met out of national taxation in the form of a special unemployment levy on all incomes whether earned or derived from interest and profit.

On planned production and distribution the Council will tell the Congress that "nothing short of comprehensive planning of our economic development and effective regulation of our trading relations will suffice to meet the needs of the present day." It will urge the Congress to support this policy and to take whatever practical steps are possible to advance it nationally and internationally, "keeping always in view the necessity of maintaining and improving the standard of living of the workers and the protection of the consumers against exploitation."

The Transport and General Workers' Union presents a resolution calling on the Government to introduce suitable legislation to the end that, when any industry is transferred from private to public ownership or control provision is made to insure that the workers, through their trade union representatives, shall have an adequate and direct share in the control and administration.

The Miners' Federation of Great Britain demands the nationalization of mines and minerals, including by-products, and declares that this should be one of the first acts of a majority Labor Government.

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation insists that the iron and steel industry be reorganized on the basis of a public utility.

The three railway unions—the Associated Society of Engineers and Firemen, the National Union of Railwaymen, and the Railway Clerks' Association—unite in asking the Congress to urge the Government to legislate in the next session of Parliament to take over on fair terms the railways and other transport undertakings and place them under a national transport authority.

The Pattern Makers urge the Congress to formulate a new workers' charter, comprising work or maintenance, a 40-hour week, workers' control of overtime, pay for holidays, adequate pensions at 60, and nationalization of the mining, railway and building industries.

Green Predicts 7,000,000 Jobless; Shorter Work Hours the Remedy

Washington, Aug. 1.—The prediction that the jobless army will reach 7,000,000 next winter and insistence that shortening work hours is the major remedy for unemployment are the outstanding features of the monthly statement on unemployment by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Figures on trade union unemployment compiled by the Federation show that 18.9 per cent of the union members were jobless in July as compared with 18.2 in June and 17.1 in May. In addition, 19 per cent of the membership are on part-time work. It is estimated that 175,000 trade unionists have been dismissed during July. Extending the Federation's data to include all workers, Green estimates that the present unemployed army is around 5,200,000. If the ordinary increase in industrial unemployment occurs during the next few months the jobless will swell to 7,000,000 by winter.

President Green insists that a shorter work week is the only measure that will adequately meet this emergency.

"Shortening work hours is the only permanent solution to the unemployment problem. Other measures are mere palliatives.

"When we consider that with modern machines in our factories work which took the average man 52 hours in 1929 he can do in 34 hours, and that the average work hours have only been reduced from 52 to 50 a week, we understand why spare time has become unemployment instead of leisure. Hundreds of thousands have lost their jobs.

"Shortening work hours this winter for all workers in the plant would distribute available work so that none now at work need be laid off. It would also make necessary a permanent readjustment so that as industry recovers from the depression those now unemployed might find work."

President Green also urges employers to guarantee employment to their minimum force during the winter. This guarantee, he says, would change the mental attitude of such employes so that "instead of hoarding every possible cent and living in constant fear of unemployment, anxiety would cease and they would release millions to buy goods."

As winter emergency measures President Green suggests the creation of work, public work in parks and on public buildings and roads, private work in homes, work for welfare organizations, and relief funds from private and public sources.

Toronto Awards Contract to Highest Bidder To Provide More Jobs for Unemployed Workers

Toronto, Can., Aug. 1.—A precedent of great significance for relief of the local unemployed workers is seen in the action of Mayor Stewart and his associates in granting a contract for municipal supplies to the highest of two bidders in order to provide work for Toronto's jobless.

Mayor Stewart asked for bids for a certain number of boilers. The John Inglis Company of Toronto bid $93,000, and a Galt concern bid $85,650. The city authorities awarded the contract to the Toronto firm.

"Charity begins at home," said Mayor Stewart in explaining the action of awarding the contract to the highest instead of the lowest bidder. "It was much better to have spent an additional $7,800 to have the work done in Toronto than to spend a large sum in keeping unemployed workers. The main consideration in awarding the contract to a Toronto concern was the fact that $30,000 in wages would be paid to Toronto workmen."

5-Day Week, No Wage Cuts, Overtime Abolition, Urged by Pattern Makers

Cincinnati, O., Aug. 1.—The 5-day week, shorter workday, abolition of overtime work, and concerted resistance to wage reductions are recommended by the general executive board of the Pattern Makers' League as necessary for maintaining union standards of living among the pattern makers and for providing work for the unemployed members of the union.

"We believe that the time has arrived when each association should exert their best efforts in the immediate establishment of the five-day week, together with a reduction in the hours of labor per day," says the board in discussing jobless union members. "If a policy of this character could be brought about and a proper wage rate established and maintained, it would immediately relieve a large portion of our membership who at the present time are suffering from unemployent."

BOTTLE BLOWERS KEEP WAGES AND HOURS

Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 1.—Wage agreements in all departments of the glass bottle industry were renewed at the annual wage conference between the National Glass Manufacturers and the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada, declares James Maloney, president of the association.

The spokesman for the manufacturers stated that their committee was in accord with the sentiment expressed by President Hoover in retaining the present wage scale and the prevailing normal standard of living, and consequently was ready to agree to a renewal of last year's wage scale and working rules.

BIG MAIL ORDER MERGER NEARING COMPLETION

Chicago, Aug. 1.—It is understood that the important stockholders of Montgomery Ward & Co. and Sears, Roebuck & Co. have finally reached an agreement for the merger of the two big mail order concerns. Together they have nearly 1,900 mail order houses and retail stores. The two companies distribute around 30,000,000 mail order catalogues a year and transact $600,000,000 of business annually, or something over 1 per cent of the nation's retail sales which were fifty billion dollars in 1930.

WORLD WAR SOLDIERS JOIN OUT-OF-WORK ARMY

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 1.—Officials of the American Legion will give active co-operation to the employment service for veterans of the U. S. Department of Labor. Because of the large numbers of the World War soldiers who are out of work it is feared in official circles that even the combined efforts of the Legion and the Department will be unable to adequately meet the problem. Connecting the soldier out-of-works with jobs is the major method of relief. The main thing is to find the jobs.

WORKERS BOOST OUTPUT; EMPLOYERS CUT WAGES

Edinburgh, Scotland, Aug. 1.—Increased output and lower wages for British building trade employes have gone hand in hand with the introduction of labor-displacing machinery, declared George Waddell, president of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers, in his presidential address at the annual convention of the union.

"Rationalization, heralded a few years ago as the solvent to our industrial troubles, is being rapidly applied and its progress merely adds to our difficulties and uncertainties.

"The introduction of labor-saving machines and devices proceeds uninterruptedly. It is the grimmest of grim irony to call these 'labor-saving.'

"They save labor nothing. Indeed, so intensified has been the speeding-up process that every workman today has to work harder and faster.

"Since the war our weekly earnings have been reduced by considerably over one pound a week, and yet there has been a remarkable increase in the productive capacity of every individual workman."

Waddell condemned the organized employers for their drive to reduce the already inadequately low out-of-work pay one-third and described it as a part of the employers' general attack to reduce the living standards of both employed and unemployed workers.

"The employers are insatiable," he concluded. "Not satisfied with the continuous wage reductions which have taken place since the war, amounting to over seven hundred million pounds per annum, they continue with constant demand and pressure."

TRADE UNION CONVENTIONS

The annual convention of the International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America opens at Minneapolis, Minn., on August 17, and will remain in session for one week.

The annual convention of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America opens at Boston on August 24.

THEY SAY

Wages.—The way to economic betterment is through improved wage standards and shorter work-days and work-weeks. We need distribution of created wealth to free the wheels of industry, and distribution for the masses can only come through wages.—Bricklayer, Mason and Plasterer, official journal of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union of America.

Unemployment.—The cost of maintaining the unemployed is a national charge. It should be borne out of national taxation in the form of a special unemployment levy on all incomes whether earned or derived from interest and profit.—Arthur Hayday, chairman of the British Trades Union Congress General Council.

Wage Cuts.—Failure of purchasing power to keep pace with productive capacity has been proved to be one of the underlying causes of the depression. When labor resists encroachment upon its buying power it has the support of economic law. Thus far workingmen have been content to reason about the problem, but if wage slashing becomes the rule, labor will no doubt make use of the most effective weapons within its reach. The best interests of the whole country demand that far-sighted business and industrial leaders avert such a calamity.—Bridgemen's Magazine, official journal of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers.

Labor's Buying Power.—It is encouraging to note that the majority of seasoned, trained executives in all industries are advocating high wages as one of the essential forces for renewed prosperity, as it is an acknowledged and undisputed fact that a country can only be as prosperous as the conditions of the working class of that country will permit; that the workers constitute the real buying power of any nation, and the more wages they get the more they will spend in purchasing not only the necessities of life but also whatever so-called luxuries they may desire. The more money they earn—the more money they will spend, which is for the best interests of industry as a whole.—Joseph P. Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Six-Day Week.—By the institution of the six-day week we have created 14 per cent additional regular runs for train service men, thus taking up the slack on the extra lists and saving extra men their jobs. Holding men on the job with no reduction in wage rates in these times is a great accomplishment.—Union Leader, official journal for Chicago of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America.

Wage-Cutting Employers.—Wage cutting below prevailing and established levels should be as absolutely and unqualifiedly prohibited as chattel slavery now is, and the punishment of the employer who fails to observe the prevailing wage-standard principle should be so swift and severe that no employer could afford to violate such a law.—International Engineer, official journal of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Five-Day Week.—Immediate inauguration of the five-day week offers the only lasting relief for unemployment. This change permanently established will return the necessary balance between production and consumption to place the economic situation upon an even keel.—Charles P. Howard, president of the International Typographical Union.

Unemployment.—There is only one real cure for unemployment, and that is reduced hours of employment. We must cut the big work-day into shorter pieces, cut it up into more pieces.—D. B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.